



PRESS RELEASE

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NO SNAKES OR OTHER REPTILES ESCAPED DURING SEARCH WARRANT OPERATION IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif.—The County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control, together with the Thousand Oaks Police Department, would like to assure the public that no snakes or other reptiles escaped during enforcement operations at 1317 Rancho Lane, Thousand Oaks, yesterday.

Some media reports quoted a concerned neighbor who reported seeing a snake more than a week ago in the 1400 block of Rancho Lane. The person described a snake similar in appearance to a Red-Bellied Black Snake. That snake, while venomous, is not typically aggressive, and the species was not among the animals found yesterday at 1317 Rancho Lane. The reporting party did not photograph the snake, so a confirmation of species is not possible. However, the description provided is also similar to other snakes, including a non-venomous snake common to Southern California.

As a precaution, the department has assigned officers to search the area where the unknown type of snake was reported. Residents are encouraged to avoid reaching into areas where any snake or other animal may be hiding, and to be vigilant when walking in vegetation. If a snake is encountered that cannot be identified, residents should maintain a safe distance and call 911 immediately.

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